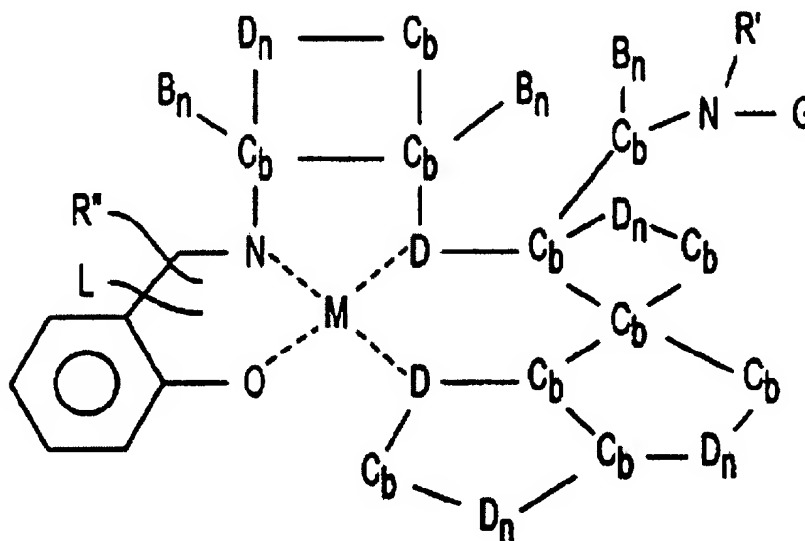


**Amendments to the Claims:**

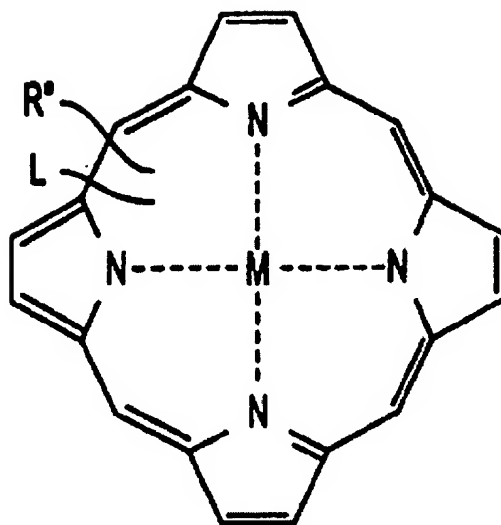
This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (Currently amended) A compound comprising a labeled nickel complex and derivatives of Structures I-II:



I

**II**

wherein:

B independently represents doubly bonded oxygen;

C represents carbon;

D independently represents nitrogen[,] or oxygen;

L is a detectable label, optionally attached to a linker;

M represents a nickel ion;

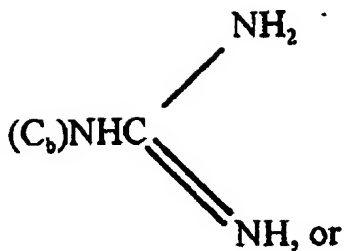
b=0-6;

n=0-1;

R independently represents a cationic group, optionally attached to a linker,

wherein said cationic group is at least one C<sub>b</sub> group linked to a nitrogen atom,

(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>3</sub>NH<sub>2</sub>, (CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>4</sub>NH<sub>2</sub>, C<sub>b</sub>N(C<sub>b</sub>)<sub>0-3</sub>,



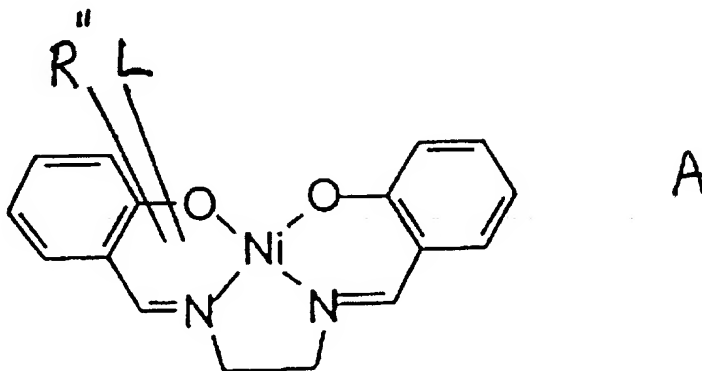
pyridyl;

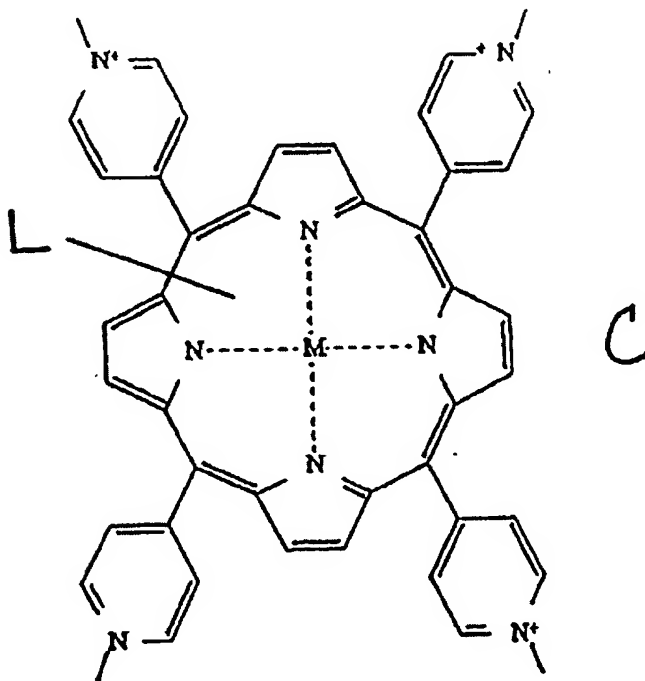
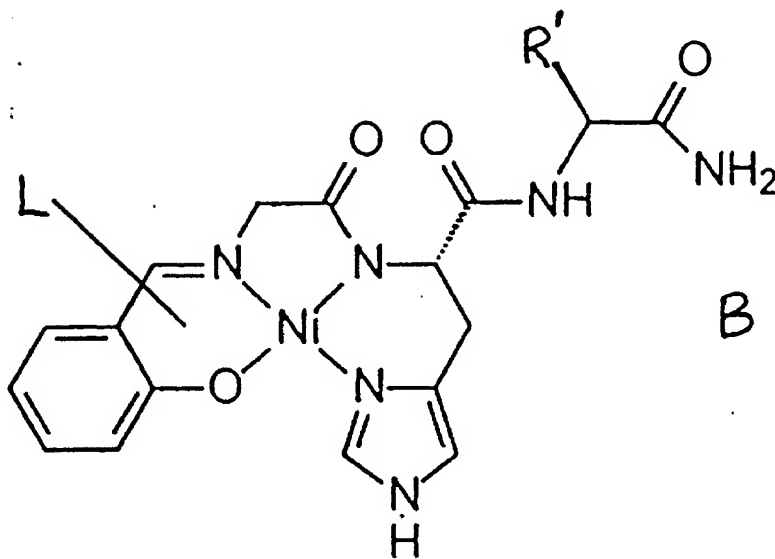
R' represents hydrogen, alkyl, aryl or a ~~continued~~ polypeptide chain;

R'' is R or R' or G'

G represents OH, OR, a simple amide or a DNA delivery agent; and wherein all atoms contain sufficient bonds to adjacent atoms, to other atoms or to hydrogen to result in a stable structure, wherein, by independently representing is meant that within one structure, all values for the variables ~~such as~~ B, C, D, G, L, M, R, R', R'', b, n, ~~need not be~~ are the same, ~~but may represent~~ or different atoms or numbers within a single structure.

2. (Original) The compound according to claim 1, wherein said compound is structures A-C or derivatives thereof:





3. (Currently amended) The compound according to claim 1, wherein said ~~label is~~ labeled nickel complex is labeled with a radioactive compound, a protein ligand, a fluorescent compound, or an enzyme.

4. (Currently amended) The compound according to claim 1, wherein said ~~label is~~ labeled nickel complex is labeled with biotin.
5. (Original) The compound according to claim 1, wherein said nickel complex is a square planar, 4-coordinate system.
6. (Original) The compound according to claim 1, wherein said nickel complex has at least one salicylamine group, at least one cationic group, and a detectable label.
7. (Original) A method for detecting a non-canonical nucleic acid sequence comprising binding the compound according to claim 1 to a sample of nucleic acid, and detecting a signal of the detectable label on the salicylimine containing nickel complex or nickel porphyrin complex.
8. (Original) The method according to claim 7, wherein said nickel complex has at least one salicylamine group, at least one cationic group, and a detectable label.
9. (Original) A method according to claim 7, wherein said label is a radioactive compound, a protein ligand, a fluorescent compound, or an enzyme.
10. (Original) The method according to claim 9, wherein said label is biotin.

11. (Original) A labeled hybrid compound comprising the compound according to claim 1, complexed with a protein.

12. (Currently amended) The labeled hybrid compound according to claim 11, ~~wherein said label is~~ which is labeled with a radioactive compound, a protein ligand, a fluorescent compound, or an enzyme.

13. (Original) The labeled hybrid compound according to claim 11, wherein the penultimate amino acid from the N-terminus of the protein is histidine.

14. (Currently amended) The labeled hybrid compound according to claim 12, ~~wherein the label is~~ which is labeled with biotin.

15. (Currently amended) The labeled hybrid compound according to claim 12, ~~wherein the label is~~ which is labeled with a flag element.

16. (Original) A method for detecting or measuring protein-nucleic acid interaction comprising mixing a labeled hybrid salicylimine or porphyrin nickel complex-protein with a solution of nucleic acid, and assaying for the signal from the detectable label attached to the nucleic acid.

17. (Original) The method according to claim 13, wherein said label is a radioactive compound, a protein ligand, a fluorescent compound, or an enzyme.

18. (Original) A method for purifying a nucleic acid-nickel-complex adduct, comprising:

mixing a labeled compound according to claim 1 with a solution of DNA,

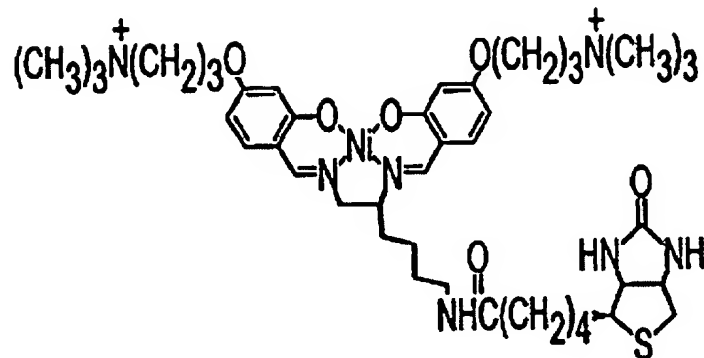
subjecting the mixture to a separation medium, wherein the medium contains an agent that specifically binds to the label, and

separating the bound medium from the solution mixture, wherein the adduct is bound to the specific agent.

19. (Original) The method according to claim 18, wherein said separation medium is affinity chromatogram.

20. (Original) The method according to claim 19, wherein said label is biotin, and the specific agent is avidin, streptavidin or their derivatives that bind to biotin.

21. (Original) A compound comprising a labeled nickel complex and derivatives of:



22. (Original) A method for detecting a non-canonical nucleic acid sequence comprising binding the compound according to claim 21 to a sample of nucleic acid, and detecting a signal of the detectable label on the salicylimine containing nickel complex or nickel porphyrin complex.

23. (Original) A labeled hybrid compound comprising the compound according to claim 21, complexed with a protein.

24. (Original) A method for detecting or measuring protein-nucleic acid interaction comprising mixing the compound according to claim 23 with a solution of nucleic acid, and assaying for the signal from the detectable label attached to the nucleic acid.

25. (Original) A method for purifying a nucleic acid-nickel-complex adduct, comprising:

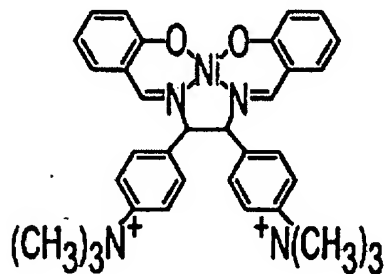


mixing a labeled compound according to claim 21 with a solution of DNA,

subjecting the mixture to a separation medium, wherein the medium contains an agent that specifically binds to the label, and

separating the bound medium from the solution mixture, wherein the adduct is bound to the specific agent.

26. (New) A complex comprising a labeled nickel complex and a compound having a formula selected from the group consisting of:



and

